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South Yemen faces imperialist gang-up

By TOM FOLEY

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) is now under attack by an alliance of imperialists and Arab reactionaries. At the end of September, border fighting erupted between North and South Yemen in the al-Dali border sheikhdom, about 60 miles north of Aden.

While South Yemen has appealed for a ceasefire and Arab League mediation, North Yemen does not want any neutral observers poking around its border town of Qataba, to see what is going on.

Ali Nasser Mohammed, Premier of South Yemen, has charged that Saudi Arabia paid, organized and armed a large force of South Yemeni exiles in North Yemen, who crossed the border and precipitated the fighting; he said those killed by South Yemen's armed forces were carrying brand-new U.S.-made weapons and ammunition.

British role

At the same time, South Yemen reported (and Agence France Presse has confirmed) British troop movements on its eastern frontier with Oman.

Oman in fact is a British colony; about 135 British military officers run the so-called Sultan's Armed Forces and are backed up by the big British air and naval base on Masira Island off the Omani coast. Oil was struck in

Oman in 1964 and since then the British have dug in for dear life. The Arab League has refused to recognize Oman as an independent country.

In Dhofar, the western part of Oman which shares a border with South Yemen, an anti-British liberation movement controls about half the territory. The British are convinced that the Dhofar liberation movement is being aided by South Yemen and would do anything to stop it.

Reactionary lineup

The lineup of forces against South Yemen thus is: the U.S., Britain, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, and various South Yemeni feudal and reactionary elements. The latter include large numbers of Aulaqi tribesmen dismissed from the South Yemen armed forces and the ex-ruler of South Yemen's Beihan province, Sharif Hussein al-Habili.

Beihan, about 180 miles north-east of Aden, is in a strategic location, right on the North-South Yemen border, and also on the dividing-line between the desert to the northeast and the mountains to the west.

Since North Yemen's eastern border with Saudi Arabia is undefined, a Saudi "funnel" goes right through to Beihan.

Sharif Hussein of Beihan fled to Saudi Arabia in 1967; since he is a Hashemite, he claims family ties with King Hussein of Jordan. And he claims also the sympathies of North Yemen's royalists, whom he supported all during the civil war with arms and supplies from Saudi Arabia.

Last March, while South Yemen's National Front Organization (NFO) held its Fifth Congress in Aden and resolved to carry through a thorough-going agrarian revolution to smash feudalism, Sharif Hussein and his followers, armed with U.S. weapons supplied by Saudi Arabia, showed up in Beihan and tried to start a revolt. The attempt failed miserably, no doubt because North Yemen could not be relied on. But since North Yemen re-established diplomatic relations with the U.S. on July 2, all sorts of intriguing possibilities have opened up.

U.S. aid programs, prior to 1967, had been concentrated in the southern part of North Yemen next to the South Yemen border. The U.S. announced on July 14 the resumption of all aid projects, which had been run by the Agency for International Development, a front for the Central Intelligence Agency in many countries.

No doubt AID did have a reasonable pretext to survey the area south and east of the city of Ta'izz if it chose to, and this is where the fighting broke out at the end of September.

There is no lack of possible villains in this situation. In fact, they are all together, like a flock of vultures hovering over South Yemen while it is struggling to build a democratic worker-peasant state. It's time we began showing we can stick together too, to keep freedom alive on part of the Arabian Peninsula.

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CIA collusion

BRAZZAVILLE—More than 3,000 machine guns and 650,000 rounds of ammunition have been sent to Iraq to aid the CIA and Iraqi puppets in an intended coup against the present government.

THE CLUMSY hands of U.S. "intervention" was brought to light in the Sudan late March when U.S. backed Sudanese tried to arouse the populace against Sudanese Revolutionary Council president Ghaffar' EL Nimeiry. In a series of armed riots headed by U.S. puppet El Hadi El Mahdy, U.S. money and arms failed to upset the president leadership of the country.

Also in late March, U.S. "fair-haired - African - boy" Joseph Mobutu, played a major role in the intended coup

against the Peoples Republic of the Congo. The more than 30 men who occupied the radio station in Brazzaville, in an intended power seizure that lasted for a few hours, were aided and abetted through Mobutu and backed with U.S. money and arms.

In southern Yemen, the covers have been pulled off of U.S. Central Intelligence Agents there who had supplied arms and expenses to an organization conspiring against the present government.

According to UAR vice president Sadai, US forces tried to hatch a plot to "change the government (of the United Arab Republic) before the evacuation of troops from Wheelus Air Base in Libya scheduled for the end of June.